

HOUSE RESOLUTION 298

By Sexton C

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Mary Watts for her service to the Tennessee General Assembly and the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those exemplary legislative employees who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Mary Watts is one such person who has served with probity as a legislative assistant with the General Assembly since October 1970 and who currently works for Representative Cameron Sexton, who was born one month after she began her illustrious tenure as a state employee; and

WHEREAS, Mary Watts is a proud member of "The Old Hens" at the legislature, a storied and exclusive group about which there is some question as to its origins, its name, or if such a group even exists; and

WHEREAS, legend tells that some of the Old Hens are Delano Brent, Robbie Farmer, Tammy Rather, Carol Roberts, Beth Chiles, and Dorris Barnes. The group reportedly has also embraced some "Young Chicks," Jennifer Murphy and Amy Darnall; and

WHEREAS, an iconic figure in the halls of Legislative Plaza, Mary Watts is known as "Jewel," a precious gem, or as a person or thing that is treasured. They won't say how she became known as Jewel, only that she is a very special person like a gem; and

WHEREAS, though they have many memories together, Mary and the Old Hens agree not to discuss in great detail one memorable excursion to the beautiful Smoky Mountains. There was a hot tub, spirits, and superb drink service by Jewel. She was so attentive there is little known or remembered about dinner that evening; and

WHEREAS, Mary Watts has been a mentor to many, provided endless advice, and valued honesty above all else. She has worked for over a dozen different members of the General Assembly, which would test anyone's sanity and patience; and

WHEREAS, through it all, Mary Watts has remained loyal, beloved, and a faithful friend. The Old Hens won't be the same without her, and she will be missed by all at Legislative Plaza. She cannot be replaced; however, she will definitely be remembered, as we have all been proud to know her; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend Mary Watts for her distinguished service to this body and to the State of Tennessee and extend to her our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.